COMMANDERS DIGEST

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MARINE UNIT HONORED—President Lyndon B. Johnson attaches the Presidential Unit Citation streamer to the colors of the 26th Marine Regiment in ceremonies at the White House. Holding the colors is Sgt. Maj. Agrippa W. Smith, sergeant major of the First Bn., Ninth Marines, who remained as senior enlisted man the longest time at Khe Sanh. Col. David E. Lownds, CO of the regiment during the defense of Khe Sanh, looks on.

President Pledges No Military Defeat During Paris Talks

President Johnson has warned the North Vietnam government the United States will not accept a military defeat in South Vietnam while attempting to find a peaceful solution to the conflict at the negotiation table in Paris.

"We have faith that an honorable peace can be achieved in Vietnam. But if there must be more fighting before it comes, then we shall not be found wanting," the President said May 23 during Presidential Unit Citation presentation ceremonies for the 26th Marine Regiment.

Praising the Marine unit for its stand at Khe Sanh, the President said "I believe that our initiative toward talks with North Vietnam was greatly strengthened by what these men did at Ke Sanh—for they vividly demonstrated to the enemy the utter futility of his attempts to win a military victory in the South."

Mr. Johnson said all America hopes the road to peace will be found at the talks in Paris, "but it is still not clear that Hanoi is ready for an early or an honorable peace."

The President pointed out the flow of infiltrators and equipment from North Vietnam has never been greater than at the present time and that there is still "very bitter fighting in many areas of South Vietnam."

"There has been no visible lessening of Hanoi's aggressive efforts. In fact, Hanoi is today telling its forces in the South that they must continue their offensive to support their negotiators in Paris.

"For our part, we shall seriously and soberly pursue negotiations to-

(Continued on Page 3)

Secretary Clifford Testifies On Increased Defense Costs

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford told a Senate subcommittee on Department of Defense Appropriations that increased aggression in both Southeast and Northeast Asia "have served to upset" DOD budget estimates for fiscal years 1968 and 1969.

Mr. Clifford's testimony before the Senate panel followed closely a Presidential request for Congressional approval of a $3.9 billion supplemental appropriation for FY68 to cover the increased costs of the war in Vietnam and U.S. actions to meet an escalation of tensions in Korea.

"The developments in Northeast Asia made it necessary for us to take a number of measures to place ourselves and our South Korean allies in a better position to cope with whatever consequences might flow from the actions of the North Korean Government," Mr. Clifford said.

The Defense Secretary pointed out that an attempt on the life of the South Korean President, followed closely by the seizure of the USS Pueblo, "greatly increased tensions in Northeast Asia and were symptomatic of a sharply more aggressive attitude on the part of the North Korean Government."

In Southeast Asia, he said, the Communist Tet offensive brought the Vietnam conflict "to a new and higher level of intensity," requiring further strengthening of allied forces and increases in the production and flow of material to support those forces "in

(Continued on Page 7)

General Officer Reassignments, Promotions Announced

President Johnson has announced nominations, assignments and retirements involving 37 general and flag officers.

The list includes personnel actions of 27 Air Force generals and two colonels. Most assignment appointments are effective Aug. 1.

Nominated for promotion to the grade of general were Lieutenant Generals Horace M. Wade, 52, USAF deputy chief of staff, personnel, and George S. Brown, 49, assistant to the chairman, JCS.

Gen. Wade will become Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Commander, Fourth Allied Tactical Air Force. He replaces Gen. Maurice A. Preston, 55, who retires July 31.

Gen. Brown succeeds Gen. William W. Momyer, 52, as Deputy Commander, MACV for Air Operations and Commander, Seventh Air Force, PACAF. Gen. Momyer becomes Commander, Tactical Air Command, succeeding Gen. Gabriel P. Disosway, 58, who retires July 31.

Nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and for reassignment were Major Generals Francis C. Gideon, 51; Robert N. Smith, 50; Alvan C. Gillem, II, 51; John B. McPherson, 50; Samuel C. Phillips, 47; Thomas K. McGehee, 52; John D. Lavelle, 51; and Lucius D. Clay, Jr., 49.

Gen. Gideon, Commander, Warner Robins Air Materiel Area, AFLC., will succeed Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., 55, as Commander, 13th Air Force, PACAF. Gen. Davis becomes Deputy Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strike Command and Deputy CinC, Middle East, Southern Asia and Africa, replacing Lt. Gen. Fred M. Dean, 52, named Commander, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe.

Gen. Smith, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, USAF, to Vice CinC, USAFE, upon Senate confirmation. He replaces Gen. Jack G. Merrell who was recently assigned as Commander, Air Force Logistics Command.

Gen. Gillem, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, SAC, to Commander, Third Air Division, SAC, upon Senate confirmation. He replaces Maj. Gen. Selmon W. Wells who will be returning to the States for an assignment to be announced later.

Gen. McPherson, Vice Director, The Joint Staff, JCS, succeeds Gen. Brown as Assistant to the Chairman, JCS.

Gen. Phillips remains in his present position as Apollo Program Director, NASA, upon Senate confirmation.

Gen. McGehee, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Programs and Resources, USAF, becomes Commander, U.S. Forces, Japan and Commander, Fifth Air Force, PACAF, upon departure of Lt. Gen. Seth J. McKee, 51, who is being assigned as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff in July. Lt. Gen. Hewitt T. Wheless, 54, presently in the position is retiring for reasons of disability.

Gen. Lavelle will remain in his present position as Director, Defense Communications Planning Group, Defense Communications Agency, upon Senate confirmation. The position was held by Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, USA.

Gen. Clay, Director of Aerospace Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff, Programs and Resources, USAF, to become Deputy Chief of Staff, Programs and Resources, USAF, replacing Lt. Gen. Jack J. Catton, 48, who succeeds Lt. Gen. William K. Martin, 52, as Commander, 15th Air Force, SAC. Gen. Martin becomes Commander, Air University.

The President also intends to nominate Brig. Gen. Rollin B. Moore, Jr., 51, Air Force Reserve, for promotion to the grade of major general. Also, Colonels Robert F. Long, 49, and James U. Cross, 43, are slated for promotion to the grade of brigadier general.

Other Air Force reassignments were:

Gen. John D. Ryan, 52, CinC, PACAF, to succeed Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, 55, as Air Force Vice Chief of Staff.

Gen. Holloway replaces Gen. Joseph J. Nazzaro, 55, as Commander-in-Chief, SAC. Gen. Nazzaro succeeds Gen. Ryan as CinC, PACAF.

Lt. Gen. John S. Hardy becomes Commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, replacing Lt. Gen. Leighton I. Davis, 52, who retires July 31.

Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter III, 51, Commander, Air University, replaces Gen. Wade as deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel.

The President also nominated Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Holzapple, 53, for assignment as Senior Air Force Member, Military Staff, Committee, United Nations. This appointment will be in addition to his present duty as Deputy
ment, USAF.
Chief of Staff, Research and Develop-

President Johnson also announced nomination of the following Army officers of the Medical Corps:

Brig. Gen. Glenn Jesse Collins, 55, for temporary appointment in the grade of major general. Colonels Spurgeon H. Neel, Jr., 48, William David Tigertt, 53, and Hal Bruce Jennings, Jr., 52, for temporary appointment to the grade of brigadier general. Brig. Gen. Kenneth Dew Orr, 54, and Brig. Gen. Collins for appointment in the Regular Army of the United States in the grade of brigadier general.

He intends to nominate Adm. Alfred G. Ward, 59, USN, for appointment to the grade of admiral on the retired list and nominated VAdms. Williams E. Ellis, 59, and Alexander S. Heyward, Jr., 59, USN, for appointment to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list.

The President will nominate Marine Corps Major Generals Frank C. Tharin, 58, and Lewis J. Fields, 57, for promotion to the three star rank of lieutenant general.

Gen. Fields will succeed retiring Lt. Gen. James M. Masters, Sr., as Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, approximately June 30.

Gen. Tharin, a Naval Aviator currently serving as Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific/CG, V Marine Expeditionary Force, will be assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Programs) at Hq., Marine Corps, succeeding Lt. Gen. Ralph K. Rottet, also a Naval Aviator.

Army Presents Public Display Of Latest Night Vision Devices

The latest tactical night vision devices, using the faint glow of starlight to enable U.S. fighting men to draw a clear bead on the enemy in the dark, were publicly displayed for the first time May 21 at the Army's Electronics Command headquarters, Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

Ranging from hand-held starlight scopes to larger night vision sights for crew served weapons, the devices were developed by ECOM's Night Vision Laboratory at Ft. Belvoir, Va., a major element of the Army Materiel Command.

Currently in use in Vietnam, the tactical advantage provided by the sights has been described as "the greatest untold story of the Vietnam War," by Maj. Gen. W. B. Latta, ECOM Commander.

Army officials stated that on numerous occasions the new night sights have robbed the enemy of the tactical advantage of surprise night attack while providing U.S. forces with the capability of launching effective night ambushes.

On one occasion, according to Army officials, an infantry ambush patrol using the small starlight scope detected a company-sized Viet Cong unit moving toward their position. As they were about to open fire on the first VC unit, the patrol leader spotted a second company-sized enemy force with his scope. He ordered the team to allow the first unit to pass through the ambush area and opened fire on the second force. In the resulting confusion, the two VC forces fired on each other, while the U.S. patrol withdrew and called in artillery support.

Army officials said the new generation of night vision sights differ from their predecessors in that the older equipment used a detectable infrared source to bathe the target area in low frequency light, while the new systems amplifies the dim glow of the moon, stars, or even faint skyglow and intensifies it within the scope's target area.

Since the soldier using the scope does not generate a light source, he does not risk giving away his position to an enemy using a near infrared viewer, ECOM officials said.

The devices have been so successful in Vietnam that night patrols are now being deployed with lighter ammunition loads. "The proficiency of the rifleman at night has been enhanced by this development to the point where he needs to carry only a fraction of the ammunition burden he had to tote before," ECOM officials stated.

The ECOM officials said work is progressing rapidly at the Night Vision Laboratory to expand the capabilities of the Army's night sights at to "advance the state-of-the-art of seeing in the dark." Dr. Robert Wiseman, Director of ECOM's Combat Surveillance, Night Vision and Target Acquisition Laboratories complex, noted that the development of the technology of night vision is one of the fastest growing of all the Army's tactical applications of electronics.

ARMY RESERVE CHIEF—The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Maj. Gen. William J. Sutton to serve as the first statutory Chief of Army Reserves. Originally selected by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 1, 1963, to head the Army Reserve, Gen. Sutton became the first Chief under the new statutory provisions. Prior to being named Chief of the Army Reserve, the general served as Assistant Division Commander, 90th Infantry Division, in Texas.

Paris Negotiations

(Continued from Page 1)

ward an honorable and peaceful settlement of the war. But this should also be clear: We shall not be defeated on the battle field while talks go on. We shall not permit the enemy's mortars and rockets to go unanswered and to permit him to achieve a victory that would make a mockery of the negotiations," the President said.

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford, appearing before the Senate subcommittee on Defense Appropriations the same day, echoed the President's statement, pointing out that the North Vietnamese have consistently stated "their intention was to fight and negotiate. . . ."

Mr. Clifford said the war in South Vietnam continues at "a high level of intensity," notwithstanding the U.S. cessation of air and sea bombardment north of the 20th parallel, and "we have yet to see any sign of reciprocity on the part of the North Vietnamese," following this U.S. move.

"A new Communist attack was launched on Saigon in early May, and thus far this month heavy fighting has taken place along the DMZ and in the western highlands. The movement of men and supplies from the North to the South continues apace, and more hard fighting undoubtedly lies ahead," Mr. Clifford said.

He stated that these developments, "while disappointing, should not be surprising," and that the U.S. must be prepared, "both physically and psychologically," to meet the North Vietnamese intention of fighting while negotiations are taking place.

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Balancing the Payments Gap

DOLLARS, GOLD, AND THE IMF

The intricacies of international finance seldom hold the public's eye for very long.

Yet, the availability of currency in many different forms permits the expansion of the world's trade.

The role that a little-known organization—the International Monetary Fund—has in providing stable currencies and promoting world trade is presented below.

The idea for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was formulated in a meeting of 44 Allied nations at Bretton Woods, N.H., in mid-1944. The financial experts who met even as World War II raged realized that the postwar world would require vast amounts of financing to rebuild nations and trade. This was the role envisioned for the IMF.

On December 27, 1945, when 29 of the nations had ratified the Articles of Agreement, the IMF came into existence. Today, from headquarters in Washington, D. C., the Fund's directors control an international reserve amounting to nearly $21 billion which has been created from the currencies and gold placed under the administration of the IMF by the 107 member nations.

Membership Requirements

A nation's financial resources are surveyed by the Fund's experts when it applies for membership in the IMF. Following a formula which takes into consideration gross national product, monetary reserves and export-import volume and balance, these experts establish what share of the IMF's reserve should be contributed by the nation as its quota. A member normally pays 25 percent of the Fund's assigned quota in gold and the remainder in its own currency.

The total of all the national quotas forms the IMF reserve which member nations draw upon for loans.

An equally important commitment for membership is the establishment of a firm and fair value for the nation's currency, a value which is usually expressed in terms of U.S. dollars, British pounds sterling or gold. That value must be maintained stable in the foreign exchange markets. A member nation must also agree not to alter the value relationship of its currency without consulting with and obtaining the prior approval of the IMF.

Drachmas and Lempiras

The international banking system which actually transfers currencies to pay for the day-to-day trade of the world consists of the supplies of currencies available to the banks in the various nations, and a faith that permits different nations with diverse currencies, and peoples speaking different languages and thinking in terms of their own national currencies, to buy and sell goods and services.

The Honduran banana plantation owner who values his crop in his national currency, lempiras, and the Greek buyer, who thinks in terms of drachmas, seek the method of completing their transaction in these international banking channels.

Through banks transferring currencies, payment can be made across national boundaries.

The IMF does not enter the international banking system directly, since it deals only with the governments of member nations. But the effects of its policies are felt in the day-to-day transactions.

By backing with its vast reserves the value relationships of the currencies of member nations, the IMF gives assurance to the buyer in Greece that the drachma-lempira rate will be the same when the transaction is completed as it was when the deal was first entered into.

Through this stability of currencies, the Fund has made available to international bankers a larger number of currencies in which prices may be quoted and payments made.

IMF's Managing Director Pierre-Paul Schweitzer noted recently that in addition to dollars and pounds, 19 other national currencies had been drawn from the Fund's reserve by governments of member nations.

To maintain stability, each member nation must agree to support its currency in the foreign exchange markets to prevent fluctuations.

How It Works

For example, a U.S. serviceman completing his tour of duty in West Germany can exchange excess Deutsche marks for dollars at the nearest bank.

Since the exchange rate is stable, he will receive one

dollar for every 4 Deutsche marks, less the bank's small service charge.

In international trade, however, where a demand to exchange one hundred million marks for dollars could arise, the amount might be too much for the German commercial banking system to absorb immediately.

At this point—to prevent the mark holder from bidding for dollars in the foreign exchange system and thus forcing the rate up—the IMF requires the German Government's central bank to intervene in the market and provide the needed dollars. This action maintains the stability of the mark/dollar relationship.

Germany, with its favorable balance of payments and large holding of U.S. dollars as reserve currency, would have no trouble in meeting such a demand.

But a similar situation in a smaller nation might mean that its central bank would face the prospect of paying out all of the dollars in its national reserves to meet such a demand.

In this instance, the member nation can turn to the IMF and its vast reserve. By drawing the currency required from the Fund's supply, the nation's central bank can settle its payment problem without depleting its supply of dollars held as reserves.

The Drawing System

To draw on the Fund's reserves, a member nation submits its request to the directors for consideration. When the trading currency requested is approved for transfer to the borrowing nation's accounts, the borrower must in turn place an amount of its national currency equal to the loan in the hands of the IMF.

The amount that a country can draw is linked to the size of its IMF quota and to the amount of the Fund's holdings of its national currency. Thus, a member nation may draw foreign exchange up to the amount of its gold subscription almost automatically.

For drawings above this amount, the IMF directors would meet with financial leaders of the country concerned to discuss the amount and further restrictions.

The repurchase of the IMF-held currency of the borrowing nation is accomplished over a mutually-agreed on period of time, usually 3 to 5 years. Repayment of the loan and its interest is made in the currency that was drawn from the IMF, or in some other acceptable currency.

From its small beginning at the end of World War II, the IMF has grown into a system which has loaned the equivalent of a total of $13.6 billion to 65 of its member nations.

But world trade is growing at a greater rate than the national and international reserves available to finance it.

Special Drawing Rights

To further expand the reserve of the International Monetary Fund, a proposal to create Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) will be placed before member nations in 1968 for ratification.

In discussing the SDRs proposal, IMF Managing Director Schweitzer said that the "Important innovation involved . . . is that special drawing rights in the Fund of an automatic character will be created deliberately in amounts considered necessary to meet the need, as and when it arises, for a supplement to the growth of the world reserves in more traditional forms."

The Fund's directors would decide on the amount of SDRs required after a thorough study of world trade requirements, and the SDRs created would supplement the reserves of member nations. These Special Drawing Rights would be the trading world's first artificially-created means of exchange payment, and amounts would be allocated to each participating IMF member in proportion to its Fund quota.

Adoption of the SDRs proposal would give IMF nations another avenue for meeting payments. A nation could settle a balance-of-payments deficit by using its SDRs instead of waiting for approval of an IMF loan. The foreign currency needed to settle the deficit would be obtained from another participating IMF member.

A Giant Step Forward

In a bookkeeping transaction, the borrowing nation's SDRs would be transferred to the account of the nation supplying the currency. Thus, the country using its SDRs would obtain the currency not from the Fund's central reserve, but from another participating nation.

As long as a country used less than 70 percent of its SDRs allocation, no repayment would have to take place. As its foreign exchange position improved, it would in turn be called upon to provide currency in exchange for another nation's SDRs and so would tend to restore its allocated amount.

Economists point out that with the creation of this new reserve, the International Monetary Fund will have taken a major step in the direction of enabling the international community of nations to control the size of its reserves, instead of having the size of the reserves limit the growth of world trade.

Air Force Secretary Speaks on Nuclear Deterrence

The United States has the power to deny the Soviet Union an effective first-strike nuclear capability, Secretary of the Air Force Harold K. Brown told the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce in an Armed Forces Week address.

"There can be no successful aggression by means of strategic nuclear war today," Secretary Brown said.

Stating it is the job of the armed forces to see to it that "nuclear aggression against the U.S. or its allies remains as unprofitable in the future as it is now," Dr. Brown said there are three important questions to consider in guaranteeing nuclear deterrence:

1—Should the U.S. work for a first-strike capability that would permit it to attack an enemy and not be hurt itself?

2—Should the U.S. adopt a policy of minimum deterrence or parity in numbers of weapons?

3—How can the U.S. guarantee deterrence in a world of rapid technological and political change?

"The success or failure of deterrence will depend on hard calculations in the minds of enemy leaders. They must conclude that if they attack us they will themselves suffer an unacceptable level of retaliation."

Even with the possibility of having 25 percent of the Soviet population and 50 percent of her industry destroyed, which has been judged by Defense officials as an effective level of deterrence, Dr. Brown said, "the Soviets may be willing to accept heavy population losses and industrial damage, if they think they have a chance of achieving complete dominance.

"To the extent that we believe that such calculations affect behavior in a crisis—and I do—we should insure that such calculations show ratios of surviving population and industry not adverse to the United States and a surviving military balance in our favor."

U.S. forces that can guarantee such results should be sufficient to deter attack and inhibit "nuclear blackmail," even in a grave crisis, Dr. Brown said. "And if deterrence should fail, a favorable surviving military balance could make it easier for us to negotiate an end to the war and limit further damage to the United States."

Dr. Brown said the question is, "how can we provide this necessary level of strategic capability?"

"Many distinguished and thoughtful men claim we are lagging behind in strategic weapons, and soon will be in danger of strategic attack. Other equally distinguished and thoughtful people tell us we have a weapons culture that buys more armaments than its needs."

Why Not a Massive First-Strike Capability?

Dr. Brown said there are two principal reasons why the U.S. stops at a level of complete and adequate deterrent forces, instead of going on to build forces for a massive first-strike.

1—The massive first-strike has not proven too useful for a democratic nation that rejects aggression, and

2—A massive first-strike capability is no longer a practical goal to pursue.

"We cannot maintain the necessary force to destroy an enemy and not be destroyed ourselves, if that enemy has the economic and technical resources at the level available to the Soviet Union, and exercises good planning. Thus, for sound political, economic, and military reasons we have determined that to pursue the illusion of an overwhelming first-strike is a waste of our national resources and an unnecessary acceleration of the arms race."

Why Not a Minimum Deterrence?

Greatly reduced deterrent forces would be a clear invitation to an enemy to prepare a massive first-strike capability, Dr. Brown said, and could have the effect of stimulating the arms race as much as a U.S. effort to achieve a first-strike level which the enemy feels would be dangerous to its security.

In addition, the result from such a course would "probably be not merely an arms race, but a lost arms race, ending in the defeat and subjugation of the United States," Dr. Brown said.

The Issue of Parity in Numbers of Weapons

Dr. Brown said some persons have suggested the U.S. base its deterrence capability on a standard of parity in numbers of weapons, adding that those who take this position believe the Soviets would feel less threatened if they were allowed to achieve parity, and that arms control measures might then be possible.

"Unfortunately, relative numbers in themselves tell us very little about the actual capability of forces and the danger of strategic attack. In other words, this argument considers only quantity and not quality."

For example, Dr. Brown said, while the Soviets are gradually approaching the U.S. in numbers of ICBMs, they lack the accuracy to destroy a single U.S. missile silo without using a large number of their most numerous type of missile. On the other hand, should the Soviet Union develop a high degree of accuracy and multiple warheads for their missiles, "we would need to better protect our missile silos, even if we had many more missiles than they have, to assure the survival of a residual force."

Maintaining Deterrence

Considering the recent Soviet movement to improve its first-strike capability, the U.S. has planned its forces to insure against this possibility. "We maintain both a bomber force and a missile force—either of which now, and in the next few years, will provide enough retaliatory capability to assure deterrence."

To provide for future requirements, Dr. Brown said, the U.S. carries out a program of research and development which will insure its leadership in technology.

"This gives us a high probability of being the first to discover any major new concepts in strategic weapons," Dr. Brown stated, and assures the U.S. it can offset any particular advances the Soviets may make.

Air Force Begins Tests On Minuteman II Motor

The Air Force has initiated a six-year testing program on the second stage rocket motor of the Minuteman II ICBM to help answer questions regarding replacement cycles for motors in operational missiles, and improvements that may be made in the missiles' reliability or accuracy.

Testing is being done at the Air Force Systems Command's Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFS, Tenn.

Principal objectives of the program are:

- Establish a maximum life expectancy of the motors by determining the amount of deterioration experienced while the missiles are operationally deployed in their silos.
- Study effects on the motors created by various storage conditions.

AIR UNIVERSITY VISITOR—Gen. Bruce K. Holloway (left), Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, is met by Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter III, Air University commander, as he arrives at Maxwell AFB, Ala., to present a lecture to the 1968 class of the Air War College and the members of the National Security Forum, held there May 13-17.

Supplemental Defense Appropriation Request (Continued from Page 1)

the higher tempo of combat operations."

Among the U.S. actions taken to meet increased Communist activity in both Vietnam and Korea, Mr. Clifford said, were the deployment of additional ground forces to South Vietnam and additional air and naval units to the South Korea area. These moves, he added, necessitated the call-up of some 15,000 Air Force and Navy reservists in late January and the activation of more than 20,000 Army, Navy and Air Force reserve personnel in mid-April.

Further costs, he said, came when the U.S. agreed to equip South Vietnamese forces with the newest U.S. weapons after the South Vietnam government declared its intention to assume a greater portion of the combat burden.

Mr. Clifford said some of the new measures reflected in the FY68 supplemental appropriation "will also have a budgetary impact in FY69, but it is, as yet, too early to determine with any degree of precision the additional amounts which may be needed in the coming fiscal year."

He stated that the President has undertaken a comprehensive review of the entire FY69 budget "with the objective of effecting such reductions in Federal expenditures as may be reasonably possible in the light of the international and domestic problems confronting the nation at this time.

"As part of that review, the Defense Department will conduct a complete reassessment of its FY69 financial requirements and reduce expenditures wherever that can be done with a minimum adverse impact on our overall military strength."

However, he said, the proposed FY69 DOD budget was severely pruned before it was sent to Congress, and "taking into account all these disparate factors and the many uncertainties in the present world situation—particularly the outcome of the current peace negotiations in Paris and the future actions of the Government of North Korea—I believe it would be both wise and prudent to proceed with the FY69 Budget as transmitted to the Congress in January. . . ."

Mr. Clifford said two changes in the DOD FY69 program have already been made by the Defense Department. The first, he said, concerned the construction of nuclear escorts and the second was a revision in plans for the deactivation of eight Air Force reserve airlift units.

Originally, the Defense Department had proposed the construction of only the one DLGN authorized in the FY67 program and then build five DXGNs, Mr. Clifford said. Now, DOD plans to proceed with the FY68 fully funded DLGN as well, to be followed by the construction of four DXGNs instead of five.

Instead of the deactivation of the eight Air Force reserve airlift units, Mr. Clifford said, the Defense Department has decided to convert seven of these to tactical air support squadrons and the last one to a C-141 associate unit.

The Defense Secretary also reemphasized his support for the proposed Navy F-111B program, which cut from 30 to 8 the number of the swing-wing jets to be built for Navy use during FY69 and requested funds for contract definition for a lighter, more maneuverable aircraft, to be designated the VFX-1.

ASD Testimony on Military Absentees

The awareness of overwhelming loyalty and steadfast devotion to duty of all but a handful of this Country's military men was emphasized in testimony by Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) Alfred B. Fitt, May 21.

More than 95 percent of U.S. servicemen never go AWOL, the secretary told a Special Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Service Committee on Military Absentees.

Secretary Fitt pointed out that during a period of almost two years, through May 17, 1968, only 181 U.S. citizens went AWOL for suspected political reasons in order to go to a foreign country. As of that date, 50 had returned to military control.

In comparison, he explained that more than 25,000 enlisted men assigned to U.S. Armed Forces in Europe alone volunteered for duty in Vietnam and were assigned there at their request.

Also, for the same period, another 60,000 servicemen in Vietnam volunteered to extend their combat tours at least six months beyond the normal one year.

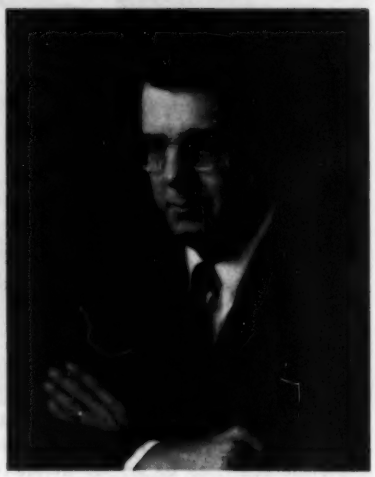
In reference to individuals that go AWOL, the secretary said eventually 95 percent of all absentees are arrested or turn themselves over to authorities.

During FY 1967, assuming that each reported AWOL incident was a different man (experience shows this was not the case) 1 man in 32 was absent without authority at some time during the year. The secretary said, "Most return within hours or days, but slightly less than 30 percent of all AWOLs were gone more than one month."

As for U.S. military absentees who go to a foreign country with a stated or suspected political motivation, 282 cases were reported between June 1, 1966 and May 17, 1968.

Secretary Fitt gave this statistical account:

Of these 282, twenty-six were unsuccessful attempts by military personnel to go to a foreign country because of suspected political motivation.



Alfred B. Fitt

Of the total number of 282 reported to DOD as suspected of political motivation, information reveals only 49 who have given any positive indication of such motivation.

Of the 282, there were 101 who were aliens, returning for the most part to their country of birth.

The secretary explained that in the 23½ month period tabulated, there were 181 U.S. citizens who absented themselves from the U.S. Armed Forces and went to another country, or attempted to do so, for stated or suspected political reasons. This represents 1 person in 28,000 who served in the Armed Forces during the period.

The subcommittee received statistics concerning the general characteristics of military absentees; legal provisions contained in the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and information as is available to the Department of Defense regarding organizations or groups that are attempting to induce members of the Armed Forces to become absent without authority and take refuge in foreign countries.

Secretary Fitt said, "it is the policy of DOD that we desire to have all absentees, including those in foreign countries, returned to military control as soon as possible. Upon their return it is our policy, in keeping with the statutory requirements of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the decisions of the United States Court of Military Appeals, that the action to be taken in each instance will be determined on an individual basis in light of all the facts and circumstances surrounding the absence, including extenuating, mitigating, and aggravating factors.

"So far as the Department of Defense is concerned, there is not and will not be any 'special' policy regarding the disciplinary treatment or disposition of persons who return to military control from unauthorized absences in foreign countries."

The secretary explained, "Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and relevant decisions of the Court of Military Appeals, any such 'special' policy would unquestionably be in violation of Article 37 of the Code, which makes unlawful any attempt to coerce or by unauthorized means to influence the outcome of a court-martial."

Secretary Fitt pointed out that absentees are scattered throughout some 30 countries.

Data reported for the past three months indicates a decline in absentees.

He noted that actions of absentees have had no discernible impact on military effectiveness," although obviously we would prefer that no member of the U.S. Armed Forces ever absent himself without leave, for whatever purpose."

The secretary said special programs have been instituted by military commanders to deter persons from seeking refuge in foreign countries.

He pointed out, "Programs are continually being carried out to attempt to prevent unauthorized absences, to remove the causes, and to point out to servicemen the serious consequences and effect on their future lives which may result from unauthorized absence."

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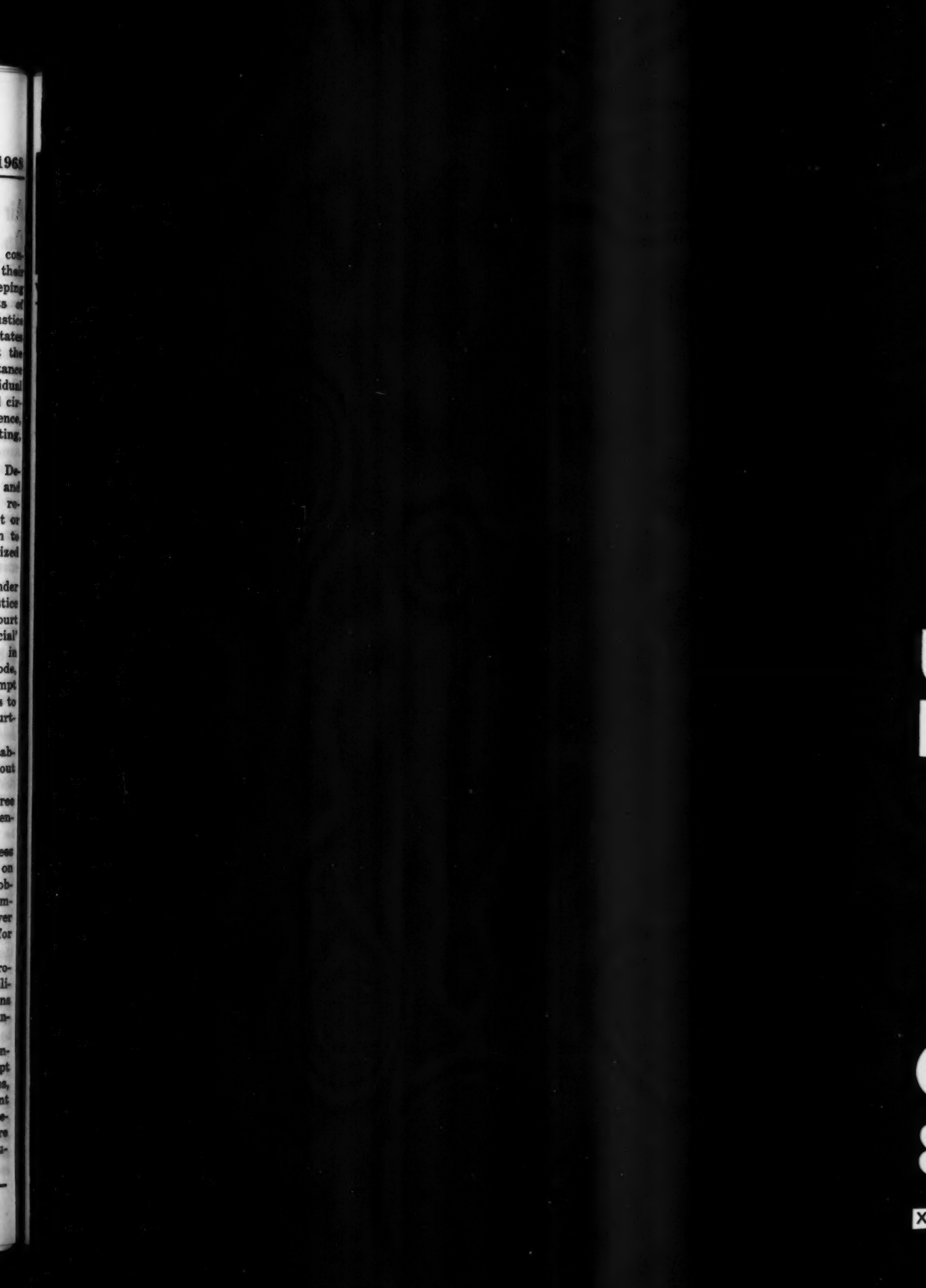
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